GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3555
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2017
Bt. Cotton Affected by Pink Bollworms
Jayadevan Shri C. N.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the genetically modified Bt. Cotton has become non-resistant to pink bollworms in Maharashtra and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether farmers are seeking compensation from the Government for their losses; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the Government's reaction thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a): As per report from the Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur there is sporadic incidence of pink bollworm damage in parts of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat. No incidence is reported from Northern States of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan as well as Southern State of Tamilnadu. The Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur is providing Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices to the farmers to protect the crop from pests.

(b) & (c): Government of Maharashtra directed the seed companies to pay the compensation of Rs.36.83 lakh to the farmers. The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare has notified the gene purity of the transgenes Cry1Ac and Cry 2Ab and minimum level of Bt. Toxin for Separate Pack (SP) and Refugia in Bag (RIB) in cotton seed lots for labeling of Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt.) genes in cotton seed. Further, the Department has also recommended commercial cultivation of Bt. Cotton hybrids for Kharif 2017 with stringent criteria.

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